

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 47

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 6214

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT GR

SUBJECT: PAPADOPOULOS POLITICAL DECLARATION BANNED FROM
MEDIA BY GOG

1. APPARENTLY CAUGHT BY SURPRISE, THE CARAMANLIS
GOVT EFFECTIVELY BANNED THE PUBLICATION OF
A WRITTEN STATEMENT BY EX-JUNTA-CHIEFTAIN GEORGE
PAPADOPOULOS DISTRIBUTED BY THE DEFENDANTS LAWYER
FOLLOWING THE SAT (AUG 16) SESSION OF COUP
TRIAL. BREAKING HIS SELF-IMPOSED SILENCE,
PAPADOPOULOS STATED IN THAT DECLARATION HIS PRIDE AT
HAVING ATTEMPTED TO ESTABLISH A "TRUE DEMOCRACY",
SAID THAT HIS EFFORT HAD BEEN ACCEPTED AT THE TIME
BY THE MAJORITY OF THE GREEK NATION, AND THAT THOSE WHO
BELATEDLY EMERGED AS PART OF THE RESISTANCE HAD BEEN
IN REALITY A PART OF THE COUP MOVEMENT. ACKNOWLEDGEING
SOME MINOR MISTAKES, HE NOTED THE OVERALL GAINS OF HIS
REVOLUTION. HE CLAIMED THAT THE OUTCOME OF THE TRIAL
ALREADY HAD BEEN PREDETERMINED AND CALLED FOR THE
GREEK PEOPLE "TO RALLY TO THE DEFENSE OF THE RIGHTS
OF GREECE", FOR THE SALVATION OF THE LIBERAL REGIME
ENGANGERED BY THE COMMUNISTS AND FOR THE DISSOLUTION
OF DIVISIVE ISSUES NOW SPLITTING THE FATHERLAND. HE
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CONCLUDED THAT HE HAD EVIDENCE WHICH COULD REVEAL ALL,

BUT THAT HE WOULD REFRAIN FROM DISCLOSING IT IN THE INTEREST OF PRESERVING THE UNITY OF THE COUNTRY.

2. AFTER SOME INITIAL HESITATION, THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR INDICATED THAT THE PUBLICATION IN THE MEDIA OF THE PAPADOPOULOS TRACT COULD LEAD TO PROSECUTION OF THE OFFENDING MEDIA BY THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE SINCE SUCH PUBLICATION COULD POSE A THREAT TO THE PUBLIC ORDER. THE MEDIA ADHERED TO THE WARNING AND DID NOT PRINT THE FORMER LEADERS DECLARATION (A SPECIAL ISSUE OF APOGEVMATINI WAS RECALLED), ALTHOUGH WIDE COVERAGE WAS GIVEN TO THE FACT OF ITS EXISTENCE AND IN SOME CASES TO THE ESSENCE OF ITS CONTENT.

3. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE CARAMANLIS GOVT HAS RESORTED TO WHAT IS IN EFFECT CENSORSHIP OF THE PRESS. THAT IT HAD DETERMINED TO DO SO IN THIS CASE IS INDICATIVE OF THE GOVT'S STRONG DESIRE TO KEEP THE TRIALS ISSUE WITHIN BOUNDS. WHILE THE PRESS SEEMS TO HAVE INITIALLY ACCEPTED THE GOVT'S RESTRICTION, IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW LONG IT WILL REFRAIN FROM OBJECTING OPENLY TO THE LATEST GOVERNMENT IMPOSED CONTRACT.
KUBISCH

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